

1. Text: Hebrews 2:1-4

- a. In the passage before us, the inspired writer issued a grave warning to the Hebrew Christians about their lack of concern and seriousness toward hearing and heeding the Words of Christ in the gospel!
- b. Note the comparison that he used in (V2-3): If the people of Israel were justly punished for disobeying the Word spoken through angels, how much more disastrous would disobedience to the Words of Christ "be" in the gospel?
 - i. You might be thinking what does it matter who is speaking God's Word if it is heeded? It greatly matters! Remember what God the Father said on the Mount of Transfiguration! Moses, Elijah, and Jesus!
- c. But before we get too far into this text, notice that (C2) begins with the word "THEREFORE". This word connects us to what was previously written.
 - i. The common emphasis of (C1) was that Jesus "was made so much better than the angels", and by His inheritance, He obtained a much more excellent Name than any and every angel.
- d. Although the angels are powerful, swift, and like flying chariots of fire, (like heaven's fighter jets in full afterburner), Jesus, God's only begotten Son, in the days of His humanity was the "brightness or radiance" of God the Father's glory, and the express image of His Person.
 - i. The humanity of Christ was much more glorious than the holy angels.
- e. Remember that God never said to any of the angels, "Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee"; God never gave any angel the privilege or right to His throne nor did God ever give to an angel the scepter of His power.
- f. And the crown jewel, NO ANGEL, but only Jesus, "The Promised Man and Messiah" made atonement for the sins of the world in His own body on the tree, and He did it "BY HIMSELF". And after His sufferings, sacrificial death, and burial, He rose from the grave, and victoriously ascended back to heaven, and sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high!
 - i. But because there was such an inclination among Jewish Christians to the OC and the word spoken through angels, THAT IS WHY the inspired writer spent so much time exalting the Lord Jesus, who BY HIMSELF was their salvation!

2. Again: There is a strong sense from the writer of this letter that Jewish Christians were neglecting the Words of Christ for Moses and the angels!

- a. Any "religion" or "worship" that exalts ANGELS or ANYTHING and ANYONE ELSE except "Jesus", is a false religion and false worship!
 - i. Many "Professing Christians" are prone to worship many other things rather than Christ alone, their buildings,

religious gifts, programs, traditions, preachers, and the subjective religious fables!

- b. We learned last week that the glorious holy angels passionately reject any worship or homage given to them. Remember Revelation 19, John fell down to worship the angel, but the angel said, "DO NOT DO THAT"!
 - c. I am your fellow servant, WORSHIP GOD ONLY! And then, Moses gave these instructions to OT Jewish believers: Deuteronomy 18:15-19, Acts 3:22-23
 - d. The writer of Hebrews was telling Jewish believers the same thing that Moses told them thousands of years before Jesus came into the world! He said, when "THAT PROPHET" arises from among you, you must listen to Him!
 - i. Philip Hughes wrote: "The law was mediated through word of mouth; (by the angels and Moses), but the gospel was mediated by the Word made flesh". By Himself! That brings us back to Hebrews 2:1.
3. **"Therefore, we must give the more earnest heed to the things WHICH WE HAVE HEARD (that is from God's Son), lest at any time we should let them slip".**
- a. Remember how this letter opened: God spoke in times past through the prophets (and angels), but in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son!
 - b. There is another very important thing to see at the beginning of (C2), this is the first of several admonitions and warnings written in this book to the Jewish believers of that day, WHO, because of their careless neglect toward the Words of Christ, they WERE IN GRAVE DANGER of falling away from faith in Christ! Galatians 1:6-12
 - i. What was happening among Hebrew Christians was happening in the churches of Galatia! Old covenant Judaism and the yoke of the law were being put on the necks of Jewish and Gentile Christians.
4. **Back to the giving of the law, no doubt it was glorious, but the gospel greatly exceeds it in glory!**
- a. The law brought condemnation and death, and the gospel of Christ ushered in justification, forgiveness of sins, freedom from death, and everlasting life!
 - i. The law was never designed to save, but to show us the exceeding sinfulness of our sins and to point us "as condemned sinners to Christ", THE ONLY MAN to ever obey and fulfill the law in righteousness.
 - b. This is why the inspired writer greatly emphasized the great importance of PAYING CLOSE ATTENTION to the Words of Christ and to the things that were confirmed by those who heard Him, that WE might SEE JESUS as so much better than any of the prophets or angels!
5. **If they did not "earnestly heed" the Words of Christ, they would fall away!**
- a. THIS applied to Hebrew believers of that day, (but it also applies to us as children of God), if the word spoken by

angels was sure, certain, and demanded obedience, how shall we escape condemnation and eternal damnation if we neglect the Words of Christ, and His "So Great Salvation"?

- b. In verse 1, we read of the danger of "letting the Words of Christ, which we have heard "SLIP", and in verse 2, we read of "neglecting so great a salvation, which was spoken by Christ", and confirmed to us by those that heard Him.

6. TO SLIP here means to be carried off or to drift away.

- a. In Proverbs 3:21, Solomon wrote, "My son, let them not, (that is, don't let my commandments) depart from thine eyes". This is just like what is written in Hebrews 2:1, don't let the Words which you have heard slip away from your hearts and minds!

i. Because these Hebrew believers would not exalt Christ, they were in great danger of departing from Christ!

- b. Those who are carried away, who drift, and depart from Christ rarely do it all at once, but it happens GRADUALLY! And it all starts when you begin to neglect the Word! You and I need to be able to recognize when we may be caught in a bad drift.
Ex. Swimming in the Gulf.

7. How will you know if slipping away and drifting from Christ?

- a. You will no longer be faithful to the Lord in your personal bible devotions, (or your devotions will be cold, lifeless, and your devotions will have no spiritual impact on your life), you will stop praying, (or your praying will be cold), you will begin to miss the church gathering for petty reasons for which you would not miss other appointments like work or a pleasure outing.

- b. And then, you will stop joyfully practicing what you've learned from Christ in your life, that lively hope that you once had in Christ will begin to fade, and you will more often be agitated and calloused rather than joyful and calmly settled in your faith (and calmly resting) upon Christ. Last, you will begin to drift back into the world and back to your old habits and ways.

i. The inspired writer dealt with "drifters and departing believers" often in this letter. Hebrews 3:12-14, 4:1-2, 10:23-25

- c. These ADMONITIONS and WARNINGS (as we just read) are always coupled with exhortations designed to STOP THEM and AWAKE THEM from departing from Christ in unbelief, and to encourage them to LOOK to Christ and to make sure that Christ was their sole confidence!

8. Finally, to NEGLECT this "so great salvation" which the Lord Jesus of Christ PREACHED Himself, is to make light of it! Hebrews 10:26-29

- a. To the lost, there is no other sacrifice for sinners that God will accept, God is ONLY SATISFIED with His Son! To trust in anything else is to NEGLECT the Lord Jesus and to cast aside His Word and gospel!

- i. THIS IS THE ONE GREAT EMPHASIS OF THE INSPIRED WRITER TO THE HEBREW CHRISTIANS! Look to Jesus and Jesus alone!
- b. These Hebrews believers were drifting back into a dead and lifeless religious system, don't allow that to happen to you child of God! Don't let your Christianity become dead and lifeless!
- c. Pay CLOSE ATTENTION to the Word in such a way as not to let the Words of Christ SLIP AWAY from you. James 1:21:
 - i. "Wherefore lay apart (or put away) all superfluity (or overflow) of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted (implanted) Word, which is able to save your souls".